Sandra D'Avilar, *Principal*
Deborah Smith, *Assistant Principal*

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Brooklyn, NY 11238
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www.ps9brooklyn.org

PS 9
Teunis G. Bergen School

"News at 9": PS9's School & Community News - 12.16.2013

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At School

End-of-Year Challenge Grant

As part of the PTO's annual fund raising appeal, they're launching this challenge. From now until the end of the year, all donations to PS9 will be matched one-for-one. Donations to the PTO support new curriculum materials, Playworks, and arts programs throughout the school. The PTO is also looking to provide funds for substitute teachers to staff and unlock our great library.

You can donate by sending a check through your online checking account, dropping a check in the PTO mailbox in the main office, or on our school's website at www.PS9brooklyn.org.

Extended Parent-Teacher Conversations

This year through a partnership with the United Federation of Teachers, the Council of School Supervisors & Administrators, and the Coalition for Educational Justice, **families of students who earned a Level 1 or 2 on the ELA and/or Math 2013 State Common Core tests** have an opportunity to schedule an extended one-to-one conference with an educator who knows their child well. The **flyer is attached.** Additional resources are available at the Parents and Families webpage at http://schools.nyc.gov/ParentsFamilies/default.htm

Contact the Division of Family and Community Engagement (FACE) at (212) 374-4118 or FACE@schools.nyc.gov or contact the Coalition for Educational Justice at email@nyccej.org with any questions.

Games for Gear 2013-2014

See Ms. Jacob, room 112, or email for FREE tickets. Or call 347.563.5324.
The Blackbirds tip-off against Lamar of Beaumont, Texas this Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. at the Steinberg Wellness Center, 161 Ashland Place.

Local fans are invited to cheer on the Blackbirds; a limited number of complimentary tickets are available to this game.

There are 9 dates / 11 games this season, with fantastic men's and women's basketball action at the Steinberg Wellness Center in downtown Brooklyn.

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Wed, Dec. 18, 7pm LIU Men vs. Lamar
Thu, Jan. 16, 7pm LIU Men vs. Fairleigh Dickinson
Sat, Jan. 25, 2pm / 4:30pm LIU Men / Women vs. Robert Morris (Double Points)
Thu, Jan 30, 7pm - LIU Men vs. Wagner
Sat, Feb. 1, 2 pm - LIU Women vs. Bryant
Sat, Feb. 8, 2pm / 4:30pm – LIU Women vs. Mount St. Mary's /LIU Men vs. SFU (2X Points)
Sat, Mar. 1, 2pm LIU Men vs. Bryant (pizza celebration for all G4G winners!)

Gifted and Talented Testing

G&T in-house testing for Kindergarten, Grade 1 & Grade 2 students will occur on the following Saturdays: January 11, January 18 and January 25. Parents will receive appointments in advance. Please note: Students will be administered the exam for their birth year, NOT the grade that they are currently in. You may contact Charmaine Derrell-Jacob with questions.

Gingerbread House Raffle at Joyce Bakeshop: Drawing December 20th

Once again this year, our friends at Joyce Bakeshop are raffling off a Gingerbread House where the proceeds from the raffle will go to PS 9. It is a replica of the Brooklyn Public Library. Be sure to share with your friends and stop in for your chance to win while also supporting our school!

Grade 5 Polar Express Pajama Reading Day

Grade 5 will host their annual event on Thursday, December 19 in classrooms. The day will include: story time, movie time, hot chocolate and cookies. Students are encouraged to wear appropriate pajamas.

Happy Holidays

We wish you and your family a joyous holiday season filled with fun and togetherness. With the wonderful and courageous work of our staff, PTO, SLT and many parent volunteers we look forward to 2014 being PS9's greatest year ever! See you all next year.

Holiday Assemblies

Please join us in sharing in the joy of the season at our Winter Festival programs.
Thursday-Grades 3 & 4 at 9:15am
Friday-Grade 5 at 9:15am

Kindergarten Admissions Update

Beginning January 13th, you can submit your child's 2014-2015 kindergarten application in one of three ways: online, over the phone by calling 718-935-2400, or in person at an Enrollment Office. Admission is not first-come, first-served. All applications received by the February 14th deadline will be treated the same. Over the next few weeks, we encourage you to prepare for Kindergarten Admissions in the following ways:

Lost and Found

Now would be a good time to look for lost items. The Lost and Found area in the school cafeteria has recently been organized. Articles of clothing are grouped together. This should make looking for specific items easier.

The majority of items are fleeces, sweatshirts and hats. There are a few fall/winter coats too.

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As a courtesy to others please keep the bins neat as you are searching.

Modells Team Weeks Program
PS9 is participating in the Modells Team Weeks Program from 11/29-12/26.

Please find attached to this email, a coupon that can be sent to all your league members and posted on your league website for your 28 day shopping period.
Remember your organization will receive the following perks with this coupon:

- Save 15% off all regular and sale merchandise!
- Receive 5% back of purchases made during your "Team Weeks" shopping period*.
- Earn MVP points while supporting your team!

Keep in mind that the coupon is valid for multiple purchases during your Team Weeks shopping period at all stores listed.
We want to do as much as we can to help your organization be successful. Please direct all sponsorship inquiries, community outreach, special order needs and/or any other questions you might have to our store management team.
*Organization must spend a minimum of $500 total during the 28 day shopping period to receive a donation.

Modells also gave us a $150 gift certificate for sports equipment (baseball mitts) for *Playworks.*

Tax Receipts
The PTO will wait to start working on receipts until after Jan 1st so that they have a clear picture of how many have to be done. All receipts will be sent out by Jan 15th (legally we have until Jan 30th). Only donations of $50 or more will receive a receipt (again, legally it is only necessary to provide receipts for $250 or more). Also, to be clear, only cash donations to PTO are recognized - no credit for products or services donated, even if made to PTO, can be covered. It is necessary to have this process in place since there are several hundred that must be done and we have to have a clean process for documenting that all are done.

Anyone wishing to speed up their receipt of letters should contact the PTO with their name and email address, as these are done first and much more quickly than the ones that need to be mailed.

Toy Drive Thank You!
Your gifts will put smiles on many children's faces and make their season even brighter. We especially enjoyed the joyful PS9 student "givers" who dropped off toys to the drop box, or Ms. Jacob's office with such enthusiasm. Thanks PS9!

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Housekeeping Items

Afterschool Programs

Information about Kids Orbit, New York Junior Tennis Learning and PACC can be accessed by visiting:
http://www.ps9brooklyn.org/our-families/after-school/

ARIS Parent Link: For EVERY PS9 Parent!

ARIS Parent Link is a secure location, where you can easily find information regarding a student's attendance, periodic assessments and New York State test results, including Regents exams. ARIS Parent Link is also a great resource to help you identify what types of learning activities you can do at home with your child to improve his or her achievement. For instructions on how to log in or questions about ARIS contact Charmaine Derrell-Jacob, our Parent Coordinator in room 112. We cannot provide student information by phone or email. Please log onto www.ARISParentLink.org to get started!

Common Core Resources for Parents

Chancellor Walcott invites you to learn about the new Common Core standards and the changing State tests for grades three through eight. Watch the video at http://schools.nyc.gov/default.htm

Early Pickup

If a parent wishes to pick up their child early, the classroom teacher should be informed in writing. Early pickup must occur by 2:00pm unless there is an extreme emergency. Only a parent or designated guardian may pick up a child and their names(s) must be listed on the "Blue Emergency Card." All children who leave early must be signed out in the main office. The person picking up a student MUST have a valid NYS photo ID card. Children may not leave school during the school day without an escort who is 18 years or older.

Gifted & Talented Admissions Update: K-3 Admissions for the 2014-15 School Year

Gifted & Talented Handbooks

Application guidelines and practice tests are available in the Gifted and Talented Handbooks. Handbooks will also be available at Enrollment Offices and public elementary schools in mid-October.

G&T Testing

To have your child tested for a G&T program, you must submit a Request for Testing (RFT) form by Friday, November 8, 2013. We encourage families to submit the form online. If you prefer to use a paper form, please review the Handbook for instructions. Whether you apply online or in person, be sure to get a receipt!

For updates throughout the admissions process, visit the G&T Admissions website.

Hearing Parent Voices

Hey Parents! Tell us if you have suggestions, complaints or constructive criticism of our school. Please send your input directly to Ms. D'Avilar sdavila@schools.nyc.gov, Charmaine Derrell-

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Jacob at cderrell@schools.nyc.gov or to the Parent Teacher Organization at ptops9@gmail.com. Help us make this a great school for all!

In an Emergency

"When you hear it, do it." PS9 along with all NYC schools participate in Emergency preparedness using General Response Protocol (GRP). GRP includes Evacuate, Lockdown and Shelter-In procedures. For more information please read: http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/0A97131D-EEED-40A1-9673-E43BF5724E15/0/GRPOnePageSummarysept42012.pdf

Lunch Volunteer Committee

ABOUT THE COMMITTEE:
Lunch Volunteers assist the PS9 staff and help our younger students learn to navigate the busy lunchroom and play safely on the playground. Kindergarten and 1st grade students especially benefit from family involvement during this part of their school day. If you have a daytime hour to spare (K-2nd Grade Lunch is 10:25-11:20AM daily) once a week, once a month or even a couple of times during the year - the small, but amazing group of school assistants who oversee our children during lunchtime can use your help. A great opportunity to get to know the school staff and your child's classmates, this committee is fun, fast-paced and hands-on!

For more information about this PTO Committee, please contact: Catherine Jhung, Committee Head & mom to Shannon, 3rd grade at: Catherinejhung@yahoo.com

Questions may also be directed to: Charmaine Derrell-Jacob, Parent Coordinator at (347) 563-5324 / CDerrell@schools.nyc.gov

Can't make it during lunch? You can still make a difference. The Lunch Volunteer Committee gratefully accepts donations of funds for the maintenance and purchase of PE-grade play equipment for recess. No amount is too small. Please make checks payable to: PS9 PTO, and earmark them: Lunch Committee Play Equipment. Again, feel free to contact Charmaine or Catherine with any questions.

Parent Information Handbook

Hard copies of this year's parent handbooks will be distributed to all families by the end of the week. Click here to download a copy >>

PTO Committees Need YOU!

The most important step you can take to strengthen our school community is to join the PTO's email list: PS 9 Family. Send an email to **ps9family-suscribe@yahoogroups.com**.

Please take a look at the current PTO committees and join one if you possibly can. PS 9 needs you! Most committees have tasks that need doing that don't take much time, so don't be intimidated. You can donate as much or as little time as you have to spare. For brief descriptions of the committees log onto:
http://www.ps9brooklyn.org/our-families/ps-9-pto/pto-committees-at-ps-9/

Registering at PS9

Zoned

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Registration for zoned students is ongoing daily from 9am to 12pm. Information about what to bring can be downloaded here>>

Non-Zoned
We have an "Interest" form in the school's main office where non-zoned families may sign-up if they would like to be considered for placement in any grade. Please visit our school, or contact Charmaine Derrell-Jacob, our Parent Coordinator, at 718.638.3260 X 1121 to sign up. We will contact parents/guardians throughout the month of September if we have availability on any grade level.

School Activity Calendar
Visit the following link for a copy of this month's Calendar:
http://www.ps9brooklyn.org/school-calendar/

School Letters
Official school letters confirming students' registration at PS9 can be requested from our Secretary, Ms. Coyle in the main office. Keep in mind that you must come in to submit the request at least one day prior to when you need the letter.

School Meals
Monthly breakfast and lunch menus may be found at http://www.opt-osfns.org/osfns/default.aspx

School Year Calendars: 2013-2014
View NYC's school calendars at:
http://schools.nyc.gov/Calendar/2013-2014+School+Year+Calendars.htm

Visiting School
If you'd like to visit your child's classroom, please arrange a time with the classroom teacher. If there is a class event or you're volunteering in any way, you must stop at the security desk for a visitor's pass at the time of your visit. YOU MUST HAVE A VALID NEW YORK STATE PHOTO ID TO ENTER OUR SCHOOL BUILDING! Please do not "drop in" on teachers without an appointment. They will be unable to meet with you without prior notice.

In Our Community

Appleburne Workshops
Appleburne Workshops is launching an ALL NEW WORKSHOP in January 2014! Our workshop for 6-8 year olds is called "Running With The Pack" and focuses on building teams and helping kids feel comfortable in a group setting. Through theater exercises, movement games and creative storytelling, students will have fun while learning the foundations of teamwork.
Mondays from 3:20-5:30pm (Optional After School Pick Up at PS9)
Begins: Jan. 6th

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Ends: Feb. 24th
Class Size: 16
Price: $250 (If you sign up before Dec. 23rd)
Instructor: Willy Appelman & Hayley Swinburne
Email Appleburne@gmail.com for more info or go to our Blog-
http://appleburne.wordpress.com/
www.willyappelman.com

Big Apple Awards – Nominate a Teacher Today! January 17th
Nominate an outstanding teacher for the Big Apple Awards. Anyone—students, parents, teachers, principals, and community members—can submit a nomination by January 17. Recipients will receive a classroom grant for their students and schools. For more information visit the Big Apple Awards webpage.

Brooklyn Historical Society
Saturday, December 14th at 3pm, is the second installment of our popular art program, Handmade History!This month we learn about the historic busts at BHS and then make our own clay creations! Space is limited, so reserve your spot: https://handmadehistorybusts.eventbrite.com.
www.brooklynhistory.org

The Child Study Center Educational Workshop Series
The Child Study Center at NYU Langone Medical Center is pleased to announce the kickoff of our 2013 - 2014 CSC Educational Workshop Series. The CSC hosts weekly workshops on various topics related to raising healthy kids, managing behavior, and emotional health and illness. The workshops are led by our expert clinical faculty who will provide insights, tips and advice on working with children and adolescents.
All workshops are free, open to the public and will be held on Thursdays at 6:30 pm at our conveniently located Manhattan office at One Park Ave, 7th floor. Registration is required.
To register for a workshop, please visit the following page
>>Register online
To learn more about our presenters, please visit this page and search by last name.

Upcoming Workshops
December 19, 2013
Identifying and Successfully Treating ADHD: What You Need to Know
There are a lot of important things to know about ADHD. In this workshop you will learn how to distinguish the facts from the myths, navigate the evaluation process and select treatments that are supported by current research.
Presenter: Lauren Knickerbocker, PhD, and Stephanie Wagner, PhD

January 9, 2014
How to Talk to Your Kids About Gender and Sexuality
As adults we know that gender and sexuality are far from one size fits all. Some girls prefer to play the roles of boys and vice versa. Some children may feel more comfortable playing with peers of the opposite sex, or may frequently cross-dress. Others may be exploring their sexual orientation, or seeking to understand the sexual or gender identity of their parents or siblings. While exploring gender identity and sexual orientation are a normal part of kids' development,

there is no user's manual for talking to your kids about these issues. In this workshop, we will review development of gender and sexuality in childhood and adolescence and discuss how to talk to your kids about these issues.
Presenter: Aron Janssen, MD

January 16, 2014
Helping Your Children Get Along with Each Other
Ever think about how you can help your children get along better with each other and create more peace in the home? This workshop will focus on tips for helping your children to have healthy relationships with each other and emphasize what you can do to foster healthy interactions and reduce conflict.
Presenter: Clark Goldstein, PhD

January 23, 2014
It's All in the Family: Challenges and Strategies for Parenting with ADHD
ADHD is highly heritable and is found to run in families. This means children with ADHD are more likely to have at least one parent with ADHD symptoms. In this workshop, you will learn strategies for helping your child with ADHD if you are dealing with or have dealt with similar challenges.
Presenter: Kaitlin Gallo, PhD

January 30, 2013
Using Social Stories and Visual Supports to Build Coping Skills
Social stories and visual supports can be powerful tools in developing coping and emotion regulation skills for children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders. This workshop will discuss these strategies, provide guidance for writing successful social stories and creating effective visual supports, and provide information regarding the application of these tools across different settings, including home, school and the community.
Presenter: Sarah Kern, LCSW

February 6, 2014
Building Basic Communication Skills in Couples and Families
This workshop will help participants learn and practice skills essential for effective communication, including how to initiate a discussion about a difficult topic and how to avoid the negative communication patterns that lead to emotionally intense arguments. Both individuals and couples are welcome.
Presenter: Samuel Fasulo, PhD, and Sameena Groves, PhD

February 13, 2014
Simple Steps to Improve Your Child's Sleep
Sleep is an essential part of healthy development, but many children have trouble getting a good night's sleep. In this workshop, you will learn how to help your child develop better sleep habits, overcome their nighttime fears and no longer dread their bed.
Presenter: Aleta Angelonsante, PhD

February 27, 2014
Day-to-Night Parenting Strategies
This workshop presents practical advice for getting through the day—from morning routine to bedtime—with less stress and resistance from children with attention and behavior difficulties.

We will cover information for children in preschool through adolescence. Parents will also learn helpful hints for measuring the effectiveness of their actions and when to seek additional help.

Dance Motion Capture—Through December 31
At this exhibit, kids stand in front of the camera and do their best dance, then choose an avatar and watch as the character performs their unique moves. Open to all ages. FREE. Sony Wonder Technology Lab, 550 Madison Ave, Sony Plaza (at 56th St.), New York. For more information visithttp://www.sonywondertechlab.com

Handmade History! Arts and Crafts at the Brooklyn Historical Society—Through December 14
As part of its 150th birthday celebration, the Brooklyn Historical Society is kicking off this series of arts-and-crafts- sessions, each of which explores history as it teaches hands-on building processes. November features Clues, Collecting and Collage! Learn about NYC buildings and create your own collage. Students must be accompanied by their parents; siblings of all ages are welcome to join in. Recommended for ages five to 10. Admission free for children under 12. The event is held on the second Saturday of the month, 3 p.m .– 4 p.m. at the Brooklyn Historical Society, 128 Pierrepont Street, Brooklyn Heights, New York. For more information visit www.brooklynhistory.org

Jen Chapin
Hello everybody!

There is a wide selection of my CDs (plus Reckoning on vinyl as well) up for sale at store.jenchapin.com if you are inclined to give the gift of music. Jewelry artist Amy Volchok has designed an elegant "find your joy and let it show" sterling silver bracelet and earrings that are available there as well. And if, like me, you're always trying to help loved ones kick the plastic water bottle habit (to save money, and the earth!), you can get them a vibrant red "let it show" stainless steel water bottle. (I take mine with me everywhere, filled with that tasty and clean NYC tap!)
While my store also offers the option for high-quality downloads of all my albums, the site bandcamp enables you to purchase and send an individual track download as a gift. Kinda cool.

We have a couple special shows before the end of the year, in my current hometown of Brooklyn NY this Friday, and my childhood home of Huntington/Northport Long Island on December 21st. I've described my music as "story songs that search for community and shared meaning," which is so much of what this season is about if we cut through the clutter! So please come out and feel the love. Details on these and other upcoming shows are below.

The 49 million Americans who are struggling with hunger and poverty are part of our wider community as well. My little Hungerthon fundraising campaign for WhyHunger is one of many good places where you can help. If you'd like to make a donation in honor of/as a gift for someone, I'd be happy to send a personal note to that effect. Just let me know atjen@jenchapin.com.

I am grateful for all of you for helping me to live this life of discovery and sharing. I wish all the best for you all in 2014. There is so much we can do to better help each other and thereby honor

our blessings, and we will do it!

Jen

PS Oh, and by the way, my tune "Go Away" won 1st prize in the Lyrics Category of the USA Songwriting Competition! Thanks for all your good wishes.

Upcoming Shows
Friday, December 20th * 8 pm
StarLight Concert Series, presented by the Northport Arts Coalition
St Paul's United Methodist Church
270 Main Street, Northport, NY 11768 * 631.663.3038 * $10
Open mic starts at 8 pm, we play around 8:45 pm
for more information contact nacnewsletter@gmail.com

Friday, January 17th 2014 * 8 pm
The Cutting Room
44 East 32nd Street, NYC * 212-691-1900
$15 advance, $20 at the door * tickets on sale here full band show!

Saturday, January 18th * 8:30 pm
Old Ship Coffee House
107 Main Street, Hingham MA 02043 * $12

Sunday, January 19th * 6 pm
"Acoustic on the Balcony"
Stafford Palace Theater
75 Main Street, Stafford Springs CT * 860-851-9780
$11.50 * tickets on sale here

Sunday, January 26th * 4 pm
Turning Point Café
468 Piermont Avenue, Piermont NY 10968
$20 * tickets available here

Reckoning Videos
"Go Away" by Nathan James Leatherman

"Feed Your Baby" by Maria Eugênia with Nick Matias

Jen Chapin's Reckoning (Pledge Music video) by Kate Chumley

The Making of Insatiable by Rich Sullivan

NikosKids Album
Whatever combination of holidays you may celebrate, I have a great gift for you, MUSIC!
The new NikosKids album "In This Moment" is out and available!
At only $10 it's the perfect gift, Kickstarter funded, home-spun, organic and grass-fed, great for your kids, nieces and nephews, friends and neighbors, even strangers on the street! :)

Check out some of the tracks here: http://nikoskids.com/?page_id=43

And BUY IT HERE: http://nikoskids.com/?page_id=151

OR just contact me and we'll do it old-school, with a check and the postal service!

Thanks,
Nikolai / NikosKids
www.nikoskids.com
917.379.1424

Restoration Dance Theatre Company
Join us for Restoration Dance Theatre Company's annual concert entitled, Deeply Rooted. As we commemorate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. we can't help but hear the echoing words, Free At Last, Free at Last, resonating from Martin to Mandela. We look forward to having you share in this dance tribute as we lift up the tireless work of these iconic men on the move for justice, equality and dignity. RDTC looks forward to featuring a premier work by its artistic director, Karen Thornton as well as works by choreographers Ronald K. Brown, Germaul Barnes, Lindia Dugué, Nathan Trice, and Adé Chiké Torbert through the Restoration ChoreoQuest Mentoring Initiative. Deeply Rooted urges us all to carry on the legacy of these great men in celebration of their lives

Toy Safety Tips
Visit US Consumer Product Safety Commission: www.recalls/gov and the NYS Department of Health: www.health.ny.gov/environmental/children/recalls.htm

Contacts:
Mrs. Sandra D'Avilar: SDavila@schools.nyc.gov
Charmaine Derrell-Jacob: 718.638.3260X1121 /347.563.5324/E-mail: CDerrell@schools.nyc.gov
PTO: 718.638.3260 X1320 email: ptops9@gmail.com

Links:
Fan the PS 9 PTO on Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/PS-9-PTA-Brooklyn-NY/152557378100856
Kids/USA Government: http://kids.usa.gov/
Notify NYC: https://a858-nycnotify.nyc.gov/notifynyc/
NYC Department for the Aging: 212.442.1094
NYCDOE Parents & Families Web Page: http://schools.nyc.gov/ParentsFamilies/default.htm
NYCDOE School Year Calendar 2013-2014: http://schools.nyc.gov/Calendar/2013-2014+School+Year+Calendars.htm
NYC Government: Call 311
NYC.Gov: http://www.nyc.gov
NYC Office of Emergency Management: http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/home/home.shtml

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Office of Emergency Management: http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/home/home.shtml
PS 9 Family Yahoo! Group: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ps9family
PS 9 Website: www.ps9brooklyn.org
Prospect Heights Patch http://prospectheights.patch.com/
PTO blog: http://ps9pta.blogspot.com
School Meals Breakfast & Lunch Menus: http://www.opt-osfns.org/osfns/default.aspx